

## VII

God gave the world the Lord Jesus Christ as a free gift, and now asks us to come to him in believing love and accept the peace and the joy and the heavenly blessing which he brings to us. Have you accepted Jesus in all that he means to the world? Will you, on this Christmas day, show your appreciation of this the greatest gift to the children of men? You can do it in two ways. (1) Give yourself to him, body, soul and spirit, consecrate your service and means to him. (2) Tell others of the joys and the pleasures, the sweet peace and quiet of soul that have come to you by accepting Jesus the Savior of the world, and urge them to take up the cross and follow Jesus. God gave himself for you; what will you give for him?

## VIII

There is no time so opportune and momentous in which to teach the young the riches and beneficence of God and the poverty and want of man as the present. There stands out before us a contrast incomprehensible—a *perishing* world, lost in the great trackless desert of sin; the heavenly Caanan, the granary of the universe, and God, the ruler, fitting out a relief and rescue expedition, in his Son, to seek and to save the lost. Having been redeemed by such a God thru such a Christ what should be our attitude toward him this Christmas day? Surely one of entire consecration to the work the Master gave us to do.

## IX

Christmas is a time of gifts, for God set the example. He gave *gifts*—gifts can only be *received*—to a needy world. Being heirs of God let us place our gifts like God. Give such as you have and according to others' need. God's gift was a babe,—that's what the world needed most,—representative of a new race of men. Packages and parcels are often bundles of strife wrapt in jealousy and tied with envy. Greed gives many a present, hoping for a better in return. Let us see that our giving is according to the divine ideal. What a magnificent and what an appropriate gift the Brethren church could make to the Lord on this Christmas day by paying off the entire debt on the Chicago church. The cost of useless gifts in the Brethren church is likely to amount to more than the price of the Chicago church.

## X

The meaning of Christmas who can tell? It is the anniversary of that day when God became man, when he humbled himself and took upon himself human flesh and became the representative of a sinful race, yet without sin himself. The Incarnation, what a world of meaning in that word! Great is the mystery of godliness, God manifest in the flesh. And oh, what that manifestation means to sinful humanity. It means that God, the eternal God, came into this world of sin and darkness, that he lived among men, talked with them, ate with them, identified himself with the lowliest of earth's inhabitants. What humiliation. Who can fathom the depths of it? Or measure the distance from the throne of God to Bethlehem's manger? It is infinite; it is incomprehensible; the finite mind can not grasp the full meaning of that condescension. But tho we can not comprehend its meaning, yet we can share its blessings. We do not understand the mysteries of the Incarnation, but we do enjoy the blessings that are ours by virtue of that amazing condescen-

sion. God became one of us. He came in the form of man that he might share with us our sorrows and joys. Our burdens are lighter because he came; our joys are sweeter because he lived; our love is richer and purer because he taught us the lesson of self-sacrifice. With the coming of Jesus into the world have come new light, new hopes, the forgiveness of sins, peace and joy unspeakable. But the greater joys, the richer things of the new life, are yet in store for the faithful followers of the blessed Christ.

## The Ashland City Revival

The revival meeting held at this place recently is one of general interest thru-out the church because all the Brethren are concerned about the life and work of their college; then too, many are personally interested because they have children and friends here. We feel certain that it merits editorial comment; that, if we can in any way tell our readers of the good done thru these evangelistic services, it will be appreciated.

First of all, it was a meeting *prepared* for. Before Brother Yoder arrived a Sunday morning and three evening services were held in the chapel. The sermons delivered were deeply spiritual and touching. Three were preached by Professor Miller and one by Professor Furry. At several quiet meetings of the Volunteer Mission Band together with other Christian young people, time was spent in careful, prayerful preparation. Prayer and work went hand in hand thru-out the entire meeting.

One of the most powerful features was that of the group prayer-meetings. Each evening just an hour before the time of the regular church service the young people of the College assembled in rooms of the dormitory, the girls in their rooms and the boys in their own. The hour was then spent in Bible reading and prayer. The spiritual life of many was quickened thru these little meetings. Faith was increased and strengthened and visible answers to prayer crowned all. The joy that comes when the power of prayer is verified in saved souls must remain continually with those who have experienced it to bless and to uplift.

Along with the prayerful spirit that permeated the society of College Hill there was manifested a willingness to work. Every home neighboring the College and many beyond its immediate vicinity were visited personally, the people being invited to church. The visitors were kindly received everywhere and their invitations in many instances responded to. It was thru this personal work that much of the good wrought thru the revival came.

Other prominent features were the meetings for boys and girls and the meetings for men held on Sunday afternoons. The Sunday School session on December 1st was made a consecration meeting. Probably no service held during the time of the meeting was deeper spiritually and surely no other touched every heart as did this one. The teachers spent a few minutes with each pupil in a heart to heart talk while consecration songs were sung softly. It was an hour of thoughtful meditation, the influence of which must be felt in glorified lives.

The students and people of the Ashland church are deeply and lastingly grateful to Brother Yoder for the good he has done among them. Every sermon came with a power